

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-18, 20-22 and 25-53 are currently pending in the application, with Claims 1, 38 and 50 being the independent claims. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 38 and 50 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,676,254 (Nagashima et al. '254) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,302,530 (Shimada et al.). Claims 1, 38 and 50 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claim 1 of Nagashima et al. '254 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,031 (Omata et al.). These rejections are traversed.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's comments that Applicants' arguments filed February 21, 2006 were not persuasive. Nevertheless, Applicants maintain their position that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Nagashima et al. '254 with either Shimada et al. or Omata et al. without some specific teaching that polypropylene is an advantageous or suitable material for constructing an ink tank holding an ink containing a fluorescent coloring material. This is especially true in light of the fact that neither Shimada et al. nor Omata et al. describe suitable ink compositions to be contained in an ink tank made of polypropylene. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the double-patenting rejections.

Claims 1, 4-18, 20-22, 25-37 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,676,734 (Nagashima et al. '734) in view of Shimada et al. Claims 38-50, 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Nagashima et al. '734 in view of Shimada et al. Without conceding the

propriety of the rejections, Applicants submit that the present application and Nagashima et al. '734 were, at the time the invention was made, owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha. Applicants submit, therefore, that Nagashima et al. '734 does not qualify as prior art to the present application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections.

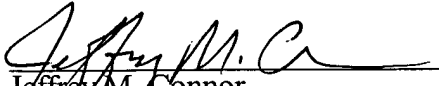
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 38 and 50. Dependent Claims 4-18, 20-22, 25-37, 39-49 and 51-53 are also patentable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in the independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants respectfully requests that this Request for Reconsideration be entered. The arguments presented in this Request were not presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Request would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicants submit that this Request places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Request is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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